

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1 (currently amended). A marine propulsion system for a boat having an engine with a crankshaft mounted on existing motor mounts in the stern of the boat inboard of a transom, said engine having ~~an output shaft~~ said crankshaft inboard of ~~the~~ said transom, ~~the said system~~ further comprising:

- (a) a transmission input shaft coupled to the said ~~output shaft~~ crankshaft, said transmission extending at least partly through ~~the~~ said transom and having ~~an~~ a transmission output shaft;
- (b) a stern drive ~~unit~~ coupled to ~~the~~ said transmission output shaft ~~of the said transmission~~ spaced outboard of said transom; and
- (c) a stern drive extension housing sealably mounted to each of said transom and a transom assembly mounted to said stern drive unit to enclose exterior of the boat enclosing the an extending part of ~~the~~ said transmission ~~and extending between the transom and said stern drive~~ between said transom and said transom assembly.

2 (original). The propulsion system of Claim 1 wherein said transmissions is a manual transmission.

3 (original). The propulsion system of Claim 1 wherein said transmission is an automatic transmission.

4 (currently amended). The propulsion system of Claim 1 wherein ~~the~~ said transmission has a low gear ratio of between 1:1 to 2:1 and a high gear ratio of 1:1.

5 (currently amended). The propulsion system of Claim 3 wherein ~~the~~ said transmission has an electronic controller.

6 (currently amended). The propulsion system of Claim 3 wherein ~~the~~ said transmission has an electric controller.

7 (original). The propulsion system of Claim 5 wherein said transmission controller shifts the transmission in response to a control signal.

8 (currently amended). The propulsion system of Claim 6 wherein [[the]] said control signal is generated by engine speed.

9 (currently amended). The propulsion system of Claim 1 including an engine coupler and a transmission coupler connected in torque transmitting association between said crankshaft and a multi-speed shifting mechanism input shaft.

10 (currently amended). The propulsion system of Claim 1 including a transmission coupler and stern drive coupler connected in torque transmitting association directly and between a multi-speed shifting mechanism output shaft and said stern drive having input shaft and gear shifting capabilities.

11 (canceled).

12 (original). The propulsion system of Claim 1 including a shift mechanism having shifting capabilities controlled by a control valve.

13 (currently amended). The propulsion system of Claim 1 wherein said transmission having said extending part and said stern drive extension housing system ~~is~~ retrofit to an existing marine drive.

14-24 (canceled).